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To
Instructional Quality Commission,
Department of Education

SUB: CHSSP's Comment 2482. It's Important To Keep Valmiki, Vyasa References in History And Social Sciences Framework (Comment #2482 in your 14th March Doc), and Justification

I have been carefully observing the Framework refinement process over last several month. I am very concerned with recent and sudden development in attempting to discredit Hinduism from history by mainly South Asia Geopolitical group.

My inputs is for following specific comment # 2482 recommended by CHSSP on 14th March.

Page 213, lines 838-840:

Current text: "Brahmins, that is, priestly families, assumed authority over complex devotional rituals, but many important sages, such as Valmiki and Vyasa, were not brahmins."

Suggested change (by South Asian group): "Brahmins, that is, priestly families, assumed authority over complex devotional rituals,"

I understand that the justifiican that South Asian groups given on 24-FEB-16 provide is as follows: "There is a shift here from Vedic culture Brahmanism to Hinduism that is unwarranted in this passage. It is important to note that Vedic and non-Vedic traditions are as a part of the larger Indic tradition and not just Hinduism."

Earlier, South Asian faculty provided following justification on 18-NOV-15: "We recommend deleting "but many important sages such as Valmiki and Vyasa, were not Brahmins" since this information is incorrect (both were Brahmins)."

I ask you to REJECT their suggestion based on the following

1. Please refer to the above two statements from South Asian Group, one made on 18-NOV-15 and other on 26-FEB-16 for the recent suggestion. Both the statements demonstrates lack of understanding of Hinduism and Indian culture. This puts a question on the credibility of the suggested edit. Are these groups and individuals the area study scholars, Historians or Hindu practitioners ?
2. Removal of Sage Valmiki and Vyasa's references will remove the important openness of Hindu Society. This also will put Department of Education in awkward position when it comes to California Education Code sections.
3. Removal as suggested by edit 2482, will give inaccurate impression that Indian social structure was rigid.
4. Basic foundation of Hinduism is laid by Vedas and the literature created by these two great sages, Valmiki and Vyasa. Removing their references is not only disregarding their contribution, but giving false understanding of the religion.

5. In fact, the literature that was created during vedic culture is the core of Hinduism today and no clear separation exists between the two.
6. For example, the word "Christian" came into existence only in New Testament, but it would be wrong to say that Christians can not use Old Testament as they got the name only after that.
7. Millions of Hindus today, derive their life values from Ramayana and Mahabharata. These are an integral part of Hinduism which were written by these two great sages, Valmiki and Vyasa. How can we separate them?
8. Ramayana and Mahabharata can not be called as a different tradition today, than what is practiced today in Hinduism since they are essentially the same. And on this context, the reason provided by the South Asian Group for the removal of references of the great sages is incorrect.

Sincerely
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